

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0579

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY UR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ONCHAIRMAN PETROSYANTS OF THE STATE
COMMITTEE FOR UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY

REF: STATE 0302

1. SUMMARY: MY COURTESY CALL ON PETROSYANTS COVERED THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: A) REORGANIZATION OF THE AEC; B) PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS IN THE THREE AREAS OF COOPERATION UNDER THE ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT AND C) ADEQUATE TREATMENT OF OUR EXCHANGE SCIENTISTS. PETROSYANTS RECEIVED MY ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED U.S. COOPERATION UNDER FUTURE ERDA'S DIRECTION OF PROGRAMS. HE WILL WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THE U.S. REORGANIZATION.

2. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT COOPERATION IN THE CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR REACTION AREA IS SATISFACTORY. IN THE AREA OF FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES OF MATTER THE SOVIETS PROMISED TO SUPPLY NAMES OF MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP TO ORGANIZE JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

3. DISAPPOINTMENT WITH COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS WAS EXPRESSED BY BOTH SIDES: I MENTIONED LACK OF ACCESS TO INSTALLATIONS FABRICATING REACTOR COMPONENTS WHILE PETROSYANTS CLAIMED THAT SLOW PROGRESS IS NOT
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THE FAULT OF SOVIET SIDE, WHICH IN SPITE OF TECHNICAL

DIFFICULTIES HAS PUT FBR REACTORS INTO OPERATION AND INVITED ACTIVE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN PROPPING UP THE WEAKEST SPOT OF THE PROGRAM--STEAM GENERATOR INSTALLATIONS.

4. THE RESPONSE TO MY MENTIONING OF THE NEED FOR PROPER TREATMENT OF OUR SCIENTISTS WAS THAT TIMELY RAISING OF SUCH PROBLEMS IS NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

5. I MADE COURTESY CALL ON DR. A. M. PETROSYANTS, CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR STATE COMMITTEE FOR UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY JAN 13 AND DISCUSSED STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR US-USSR COOPERATION IN PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY UNDER ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT, DRAWING ON POINTS IN REFTEL. PETROSYANTS ASKED HOW THE REORGANIZATION OF AEC INTO ERDA AND THE NRC WOULD AFFECT JOINT COOPERATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND I ASSURED HIM THAT THIS COOPERATION WOULD CONTINUE AS BEFORE, BUT UNDER ERDA'S DIRECTION. PETROSYANTS ADDED THAT THE USSR WOULD CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND WOULD AWAIT RESULTS OF THE U.S. REORGANIZATIONS.

6. I THEN REVIEWED THE PROGRESS TO DATE IN THE THREE MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION, CONTROLLED THERMONUCLER REACTION, FAST BREEDER REACTORS AND FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES OF MATTER (CTR, FBR AND FPM), BASED ON THE EMBASSY'S AND WASHINGTON'S PERCEPTIONS. PETROSYANTS AND I BOTH AGREED THAT THE CTR PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPING WELL AND WAS ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH SIDES. IN REGARD TO FPM, I REMINDED PETROSYANTS THAT THE US SIDE WAS STILL AWAITING NOTIFICATION OF THE NAMES OF THE SOVIET MEMBERS OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED JOINT WORKING GROUP IN THIS PROJECT. PETROSYANTS ASSURED ME THAT THESE NAMES WOULD BE PROVIDED QUICKLY AND THAT THE DELAY HAS BEEN OCCASIONED BY PROF. CHUVILO'S ILLNESS.

7. IN DISCUSSING THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROJECT, I NOTED THAT THE US SIDE WAS DISAPPOINTED BY THE LACK OF ACCESS FOR ITS SPECIALISTS TO VISIT SOVIET INSTALLATIONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COMPONENTS FOR REACTORS. WE POINTED OUT THAT SOVIET EXPERTS HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO US MANUFACTURING FACILITIES SUCH AS GENERAL ELECTRIC AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE AND DESIRE THAT PETROSYANTS WOULD DO CONFIDENTIAL

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WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO ASSIST US IN SOLVING THIS PROBLEM.

8. PETROSYANTS, WHO AVOIDED A DIRECT RESPONSE TO MY POINT, REPLIED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, THE PARTICULAR GE PLANT IS BEING SHUT DOWN AND THE WORK WILL BE DISCONTINUED. HE REMINDED US THAT BOTH SIDES HAD PROBLEMS WITH FACILITIES OFF-LIMITS TO FOREIGNERS. HE ADDED THAT US EXPERTS WERE THE FIRST FOREIGNERS TO HAVE VISITED SOVIET REACTORS AT

SHEVCHENKO, DIMITROVGRAD AND LENINGRAD. PETROSYANTS THEN EXPRESSED HIS OWN DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SLOW PROGRESS BEING MADE IN THE JOINT FBR PROJECT. HOWEVER, PETROSYANTS SAID THAT THE LACK OF PROGRESS WAS NOT THE FAULT OF THE SOVIETS. THEY ALREADY HAVE OPERATING FBR'S AT SHEVCHNEKO AND DMITROVGRAD, WHEREAS THE US STILL HAS NO OPERATING FBR'S. PETROSYANTS THEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STILL HAVING PROBLEMS OF LEAKAGE WITH THEIR STEAM GENERATORS AND THAT THE GENERATORS ARE THE WEAKEST PART OF THE SOVIET FBR PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH ADMITTING TO PROBLEMS WITH GENERATORS, PETROSYANTS POINTEDLY DENIED THAT A GENERATOR HAD EXPLODED AT SHEVCHNEKO AS HAD BEEN REPORTED SOME TIME AGO IN THE US AND WESTERN PRESS.

9. PETROSYANTS ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE CZECHS WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVED STEAM GENERATORS AT DMITROVGRAD WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE AN OUTPUT OF 350 MEGAWATTS. PETROSYANTS NOTED THAT THE USSR WOULD WELCOME US PARTICIPATION IN WORK ON STEAM GENERATORS AT SHEVCHENKO AND DMITROVGRAD AND "OFFICIALLY SUGGESTED" THAT THE U.S. CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL.

10. I REPLIED THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT SUGGESTION AND THAT I WOULD REPORT IT TO WASHINGTON.

11. COMMENT: PETROSYANTS IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING US ASSISTANCE IN IMPROVING THE SOVIETS' GENERATOR PROBLEMS AND HE IS WILLING TO HAVE US EXPERTS WORK AT THESE REACTORS. IF THE AEC, ERDA AND THE INTERESTED US AGENCIES SEE RECIPROCAL ADVANTAGES TO BE GAINED BY OUR PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A PROJECT, ABOVE AND BEYOND ANYTHING THAT IS PLANNED UNDER THE CURRENT PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FBR AREA, THE EMBASSY WILL EXPLORE THIS PROPOSAL IN MORE DETAIL WITH THE SCAE. END COMMENT

12. I RAISED QUESTION OF BETTER PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL TREATMENT FOR US SCIENTISTS WHO WOULD WORK AT SOVIET RESEARCH FACILITIES, DRAWING ON THE EXPERIENCES OF DR. CARK AKERLOF, WHOSE CASE I MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY. PETROSYANTS' ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT SUCH PROBLEMS SHOULD BE RAISED AT AN EARLY POINT IN THE SCIENTIST'S STAY RATHER THAN AFTER DEPARTURE. FYI: EMBASSY AND SCIENCE SECTON HAVE INSTITUTED NEW PROGRAM FOR EARLY VISITS OF RECENTLY-ARRIVED U.S. EXCHANGEES.

13. PLEASE INFORM DR. FRIEDMAN, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, AEC, OF ABOVE.

STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE BELIEVED TO BE MOSCOW 0302.

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